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ANS. D790140-0991

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ACTION NEA-11

KABUL 02314 270724Z

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 ACDA-12 SAA-01 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /105 W  
-----086603 270730Z /15

P R 270441Z MAR 79

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2976

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2314

E.O. 12065: GDS 3-26-85 (TAYLOR, JAMES E.) OR-P

TAGS: PINR, PINS, PINT, AF

SUBJ: (C) LEVEL OF FIGHTING IN HERAT WAS OR IS HIGH

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. AN AFGHAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHO WAS IN HERAT DURING THE UNREST, AND WHO HAS JUST RETURNED TO KABUL, HAS COMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT, AS OF MARCH 21 (THE DAY HE LEFT HERAT) THE CITY WAS IN THE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ANTI-REGIME FORCES. THE OFFICIAL ADDED THAT ABOUT 14,000 PEOPLE (INCLUDING MANY SOLDIERS) HAD BEEN KILLED SO FAR DURING THE FIGHTING. A HAZARA NAMED BARAT ALI (ANOTHER VERISION OF THIS NAME WE HAVE HEARD OF MOLAVI AHMAD ALI) IS REPORTEDLY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION FORCES IN HERAT.

3. COMMENT: CURRENT REPORTING INDICATES THAT HERAT IS UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL. WE HAVE NO WAY TO CONFIRM THE CASUALTY FIGURE  
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CITED, BUT EVEN IF REMOTELY ACCURATE, IT GIVES AN INDICATION

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RECEIVED  
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5/21/90

OF THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING IN HERAT, AND COULD WEL SHAKE: THE  
CONFIDENCE OF THE REGIME'S RANK AND FILE SUPPORTERS. ONCE IT  
BEGINS MAKING THE ROUNDS OF THE DRA BUREAUCRACY. IF AN ETHNIC  
HAZARA (MOST OF WHOM ARE SHIAS) IS, IN FACT, PLAYING A MAJOR  
ROLE IN THIS EPISODE, IT COULD INDICATE THAT AS AT DARAI-  
I-SUP'S RECENT FIGHTING, THIS MAJOR ETHNIC MINORITY IS TAKING THE  
FIELD AGAINST THE KHALQIS, A POTENTIALLY OMINOUS DEVELOPMENT  
FOR DOMESTIC SECURITY. THE HERAT FIGHTING HAS ALSO INVOLVED  
ANTI-KHALQI ELEMENTS FROM THE SEVERAL ISLAND COMMUNITIES OF  
PUSHTUNS AROUND THAT CITY. IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE TOP  
KHALQI LEADERSHIP IS PUSHTUN, THAT DOMINANT ETHNIC MAJORITY  
CONTINUES TO REMAIN IN THE FOREFRONT OF ARMED OPPOSITION TO THE  
REGIME. AMSTUTZ

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# NOT RECALLED